

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Father's Day, June 15

He is worth more than gold

A modern-day paraphrase of
Proverbs 31:10-31

A husband of noble character who can find?
He is worth far more than gold.
His wife has full confidence in him
and lacks nothing of value.
He brings her good, not harm,
all the days of his life.
He works with books and people,
his work knows no hours.
Yet another committee meeting?
Yes, he'll be there.
Another sermon to prepare?
Another telephone call to make?
Yes, he'll get it done.
He provides well for his family.
He considers carefully a real estate deal,
He knows the interest rates.
He goes about his work heartily;
he is well qualified for his tasks.
He will prepare the early morning meal
before he and his wife start the day's work.
He gives to charities
and is kind to those in need.

He keeps his car running
and the oil changed.
His wife is respected in the community
when she takes her place.
He has planned for the future,
his retirement is secure.
He speaks with wisdom
and teaches his family well.
He watches over the affairs of his
household; he isn't lazy.
His children arise and call him blessed;
His wife also praises him.
Many men do well;
but this one is really outstanding.
Looks are deceptive and youth is fleeting,
but a man who fears the Lord
is to be praised.
Give him the reward he has earned
and let his works bring him praise
in the community.

—Joyce C. Rogers
Tupelo

Esther, the queen

(Bible Book lessons next Sunday begin a study of Esther.)

I was queen — but the palace was cold.
Resplendent Shushan, the fabled lily palace
High in Elam's ancient hills.

Death stalked its corridors —
And crept along their tiled pavings —
Writhing intricacies of red and blue and black and white.
Intrigue lurked behind the curtaining silks
Corded with linen and with purple on rings of silver —
And caught to the pillars of marble.

A feral breath misted the alabaster fretwork;
Clouded jewel set thrones;
Dulled beds of ivory and of silver;
Tarnished diversely wrought vessels of gold.

In that hour all was in ominous silence —
Only the susurrance of my chamberlain's feet
Disturbed the deathly quiet.

In his far private courts my Lord Ahasuerus —
King of Medea-Persia,
Sat with his princes and nobles and terror loomed.
Deceitful Haman had spun his web of untruth.

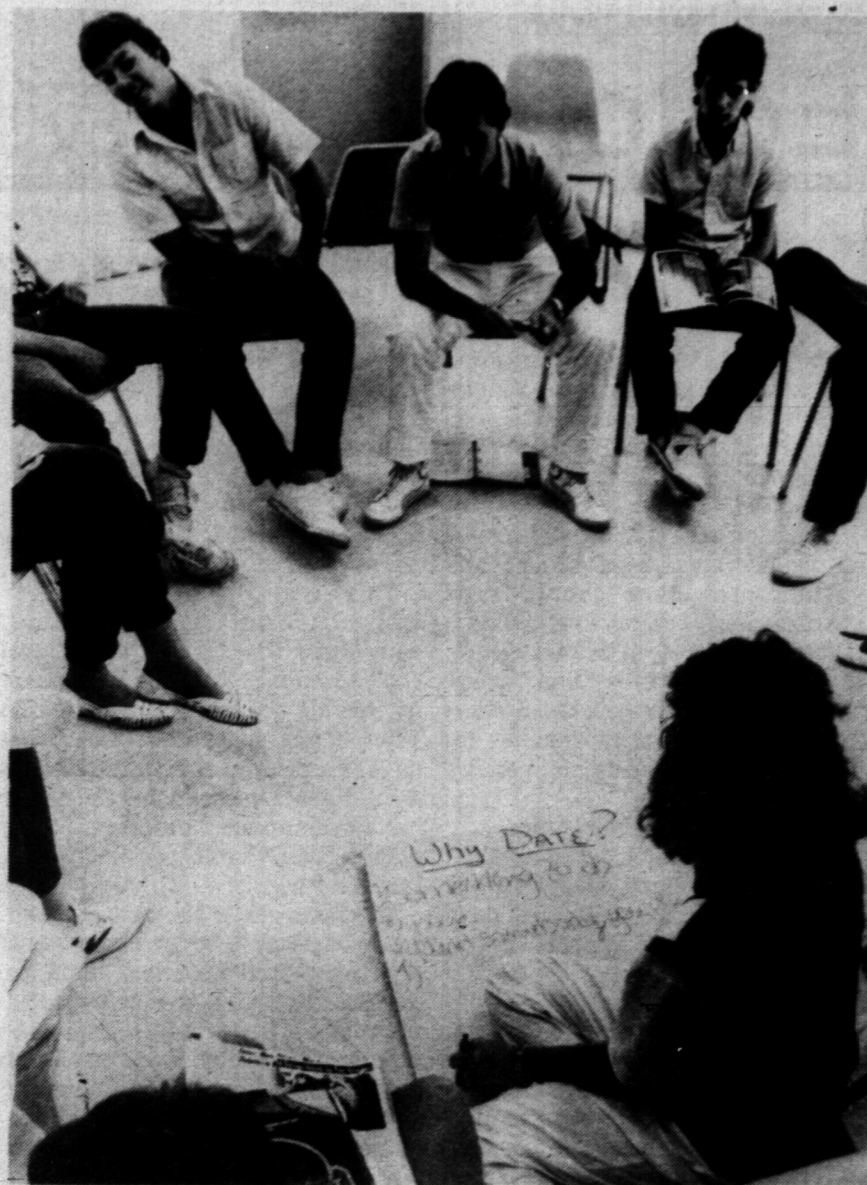
Ah yes! of that far-flung empire I was queen —
But I was first a daughter of sacred Israel:
An Israel captive, enslaved and now doomed.
I alone could help my people or perish with them.
Oh! my husband, my Lord Ahasuerus,
Would your love be enough to save us?

Trusting my God and trusting that love I went unbidden
To the emperor's presence.
Not even a queen should have dared.
But Rachel, Rebekah, and Sarah stood with me —
Sustained by such lovely ones and great — I could not fail.

When the great king saw me his gaze grew tender
And he touched me with his golden scepter —
Thus life — not death — was my fate.
He came to my banquet — he heard my petition —
My people were saved!

I am of legendary, near mythical fame
But ours is a great love of the ages —
Read of it in the book that is called by my name —
See it traced in a golden thread through the centuries —
For I was Esther.

—Monette M. Young
Jackson



Don Gann, top center, leads a discussion on "Why date?" for a senior high school class during the first of the Gulfshore Youth Conferences this summer. Gann was recently hired by the MBCB to direct BSU work at East Central Junior College. In the classes, students discuss the various problems that youths face, particularly looking at what the Christian can do to cope. (More photos on page 5)

"I am loved," sing youths at Gulfshore



Mack and Shayla Blake of Baton Rouge lead the music for the first Youth Weeks at Gulfshore. "I am loved" is the theme of the conferences. In the picture they are singing "Stop Pretending," a contemporary Christian song. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

Cyclotron used to probe historic documents

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP)—An aging machine made from a refurbished cyclotron is helping scientists discover new things about ancient documents, including historic Bibles.

Located on the campus of the University of California at Davis, the "aging machine" is an early particle accelerator that can produce a proton beam traveling at up to one-third the speed of light. By focusing the beam on documents and examining the

resulting spray of X-rays, Physicist Thomas Cahill and Historian Richard Schwab discover detailed information about the chemical composition of ink and paper without damaging the document.

One success of the method has been the resolution of the controversy surrounding the first book printed with movable metallic type. Most experts have said Gutenberg's two-volume

Bible, printed between 1450 and 1455, was the ground-breaker. But two cruder works of the mid 1400s have puzzled experts: a rare 36-line Bible, and a scrap of paper known as the Sibyllenbuch fragment, also done in 36 lines. The question: were these printed by Gutenberg, or by someone else?

Cahill and Schwab borrowed two of the world's 49 remaining

Bible volumes, as well as leaves from the "mystery" documents. Tests of these documents are still being evaluated, but most doubts have been resolved. The researchers discovered that rather than using carbon-based ink, Gutenberg used a slurry of copper and lead for his famous Bible. The two 36-line works revealed an almost-identical mixture, leading Cahill and Schwab to conclude that Gutenberg

36-line works were his "warm-up" efforts.

Even fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls have been examined by cyclotron. Researchers determined that the documents had been preserved by soaking in salt water. They also found that while earlier documents were written in the purest of carbon inks, later scrolls contained levels of copper.

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Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

An annuity program

The day for Southern Baptists to give particular thought to the welfare of their church staff members is June 22. That is Annuity Board Sunday throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

This is an area that has not received nearly enough attention, and pastors and other church staff members have suffered mightily upon retirement because of this negligence. In many cases, there is simply no one to take charge of the situation and see that the church staff member is covered with an adequate annuity program.

The staff member is not in a position to do it. The church members would not understand. Where there is a multiple staff, the pastor can go to bat for the staff as a whole; but in many cases there is only a pastor. So who is to do it?

The logical place for annuity program recommendations to begin is the church's personnel committee. And if there is a personnel committee that has not looked into its pastor's and other staff members' annuity pro-

grams, it is being very negligent indeed. And looking into doesn't mean just asking a few questions. It means an in-depth examination to see what is being done, what needs to be done, and whether or not the actions meet the needs. If they do not, a recommendation is in order.

There are many pastors, however, whose churches have no personnel committee. The lack of a personnel committee does not compensate for not having an annuity program. In other words, the church's lack in not having a personnel committee does not eliminate the need that the pastor has for an annuity program. So the church is still liable, personnel committee or no.

So who is next? The best possibility would seem to be the chairman of deacons. Granted, some of them are not given to paying much attention to the personal needs of the pastor; and if they don't, someone in the church needs to call the need for an annuity plan to the attention of the church.

Church staff members' annuity plans are much like a chain. Those

staff members move from church to church as they are felt led. Their annuity programs depend on a continual cooperation on the part of all of the churches. The chain of the program is only as strong as its weakest link — or church.

No church should have the negligence hanging over its head.

Most pastors don't ask about the annuity plan when they are considering a move. They shouldn't have to. The church should take care of that matter regardless of who the pastor is and regardless of whether or not there is a pastor.

To what extent should the church have an annuity plan for its pastors? The plan should call for at least 10 percent of the pastor's income being set aside for an annuity program, and the church should contribute at least half of that, or it would be falling short of minimum expectations.

The annuity representative for Mississippi Baptists is Bill Sellers. He may be contacted by letter at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205 or by telephone at 968-3800.

A personal word

Personal words are not the usual fare on this page, but I have need to tell about a personal relationship. A sort of love affair has developed between the senior adult choir, The Heavenly Sunlight Singers, at Parkway Church, Jackson, and me.

I first ran across this fine group of folks, which includes Carolyn Madison, a former Baptist Record employee, during a senior adult Chautauqua last fall at Ridgecrest. Now I seldom have an opportunity to go to Ridgecrest and have been to Glorieta only once in my life, so I enjoyed my trip to the Chautauqua. I went because I knew a large number of Mississippians would be there and that this choir would be performing. As an extra bonus I was sort of adopted by the choir.

Actually, there was also an invitation to attend the Chautauqua issued by Jack Gullledge, editor of *Mature Living* magazine and a friend of many years, and Kermit King, former Church Training director in Mississippi and now a consultant with the Sunday School Board in senior adult ministries. A little known fact is that Kermit and I had a common great-grandfather. His mother was a McGregor.

Be all of that as it may, it was at Ridgecrest that I got acquainted with the senior adult choir from Parkway, and we became friends. Because of its ability and enthusiasm, this choir was selected by the publisher, Message Music Colmar Publishing Company

of Forest, Miss., to premiere a new senior adult musical, *Meet and Eat (There IS Something More)* in March, and our relationship deepened.

I found that there are all sorts of interesting people in this choir. One lady does an imitation of Minnie Pearl that is something to behold. There is a utility quartet made up of four men who have retired from various utility companies.

Clark Hensley, consultant in senior adult ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, invited the choir to perform the musical during the second Senior Adult Conference at Gulfshore. They were not to take their drama group along, so I was asked to play the part of Caleb. Fuller Saunders and his wife, Cannie, were asked to play Moses and Sara.

During the introduction of the musical that night I suddenly realized that the choir was dedicating that performance to me. During his introductory remarks, Marion Townsend read this dedication statement:

"We would like to recognize Don McGregor, editor of the *Mississippi Baptist Record*, for his outstanding and extensive coverage and promotion of the work being done by Baptist senior adults throughout Mississippi and Southern Baptists everywhere.

"His understanding of the needs of senior adults and their potential for service to our Lord has been demonstrated by his articles covering

(Continued on page 11)

Guest opinion . . .

Support — a Baptist hallmark

By Darold H. Morgan

I am honored to be part of an organization that helps so many churches support their leaders.

Yet many Southern Baptists are not aware of how the Annuity Board, in partnership with churches, serves those who serve the Lord.

Therefore, it is our hope that you will encourage your church to observe Annuity Board Sunday on June 22, 1986. The day has been set aside on the Southern Baptist calendar to highlight the board's ministry.

Consider using some of the suggested activities as ways to educate your congregation about the work of the Annuity Board.

If you need additional information about our organization or its programs, contact the annuity representative of your state convention or write to the Annuity Board, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, TX 75201.

Darold H. Morgan is president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A MCKINNEY VIGNETTE

"Have faith in God"

By William J. Reynolds

In January, 1934, B. B. McKinney went from Fort Worth, Tex., to Muskogee, Okla., to lead the music in a revival meeting at the First Baptist Church. The pastor was A. N. Hall, and the evangelist was C. C. Morris of Ada, Okla.

These were the dark days of the depression during which many families were touched by financial failure. Businesses failed, banks closed, and meager savings — evening family fortunes — were unexpectedly wiped out.

During the days in Muskogee, McKinney thought often of some unfortunate businessmen in Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as associate pastor and music director. Some close friends had faced great financial difficulties just before he left Fort Worth for Muskogee.

In a sermon one evening, Morris spoke of the need for strong faith in the Lord in these days. The words provided the inspiration,

and McKinney began the stanzas for "Have Faith in God." By the end of the sermon he had a rough sketch of the stanzas. He finished both words and music in his room at the Hotel Severs before he retired for the night.

The hymn was published in 1935 by Robert H. Coleman in Dallas, and its message provided strength and courage to all those who sang it.

W. J. Reynolds is professor at Southwestern Seminary.

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Baptist ranks in India swell as families leave former gods

By Marty Croll

BANGALORE, India (BP) — The ranks of Baptists in India are swelling at an unprecedented rate as entire households of Hindus and Muslims have begun turning their backs on the gods of their fathers.

Veteran Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers liken the movement to the days of early Christianity, when people en masse came to realize their gods had failed them and embraced Jesus Christ as their only Lord.

The stories range from familiar salvation experiences and destruction of fetishes to reports of miracles. But the result in each case is evidenced by changed hearts among new believers.

Volunteers visiting the predominantly Hindu nation recently related God had prepared Indians they met to understand about Jesus Christ before they arrived to explain how salvation

could be found through him. They also reported seeing God's power heal people of various infirmities and free them from symptoms of disorders like seizures and stammering.

"I must confess my faith in prayer has been increased almost 100 percent," said Eral Locke of Americus, Kan. "God showed me miracles I had never seen."

In one instance during a 10-day evangelism crusade ending in early April, a team of Baptists was invited into a Hindu temple in Bangalore, where a team member shared the gospel with the temple priest's wife and 12 others. "I noticed the people putting down mats and bringing in chairs," recalled Ruth Reid from Kansas City, Kan. "My heart skipped a beat, 'Lord, will we be able to share Christ here?'"

A team member clearly spelled out

what Jesus had done that their gods could not do. In two or three different ways, Reid said, those attending were told they must "give up their gods to accept Christ. All stood to accept Christ that day in the Hindu temple."

During the same crusade in the town of Kolar Gold Fields about 50 miles outside of Bangalore, an upper-class Hindu family living within earshot of the revival tent's loudspeaker heard Les Arnold of Manhattan, Kan., preaching about the second coming of Christ.

The family climbed into their car and drove closer to the tent. The next morning family members sent word they wanted to talk to Arnold. The wife told him how she had a vision of Jesus by her bed during recent surgery but was unsure how to know Jesus. The husband and wife and their three teenage children became Chris-

(Continued on page 4)

Special ministries retreat attracts 102 participants



The special ministries retreat recently held at Clinton's Camp Garaywa attracted 102 participants, including 50 handicapped persons. Recreational activities included a campfire, marshmallow roast, relay races, and crafts. Bible study leader was Joe Rightmyer, with musician June Rightmyer. According to Billy Hudgens, retreat organizer, a part of this conference included observation on how to teach the Bible to mentally handicapped. A special training session for workers with the mentally handicapped will be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly during the first Sunday School conference, July 28-30. Jo Hester, special worker from Terry, will lead the conference. Included will be information on how to begin a work with mentally handicapped, what materials to use, space needed, worker training, how to discover prospects, and how to enlist teachers. For details, write Gulfshore at Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. (Photos by Billy Hudgens)

WMU, SBC, elects Pattie Dent as recording secretary

Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La. has been elected president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, to succeed Dorothy Sample of Michigan. She is widow of the late Glendon McCullough, who was director of Brotherhood Commission, SBC.

The Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, meeting in Atlanta, on Monday, June 9, elected Pattie (Mrs. Bob) Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., as recording secretary. She is a former state president of Mississippi WMU. Terms of these two will extend to 1990.

The SBC Pastors' Conference, also meeting in Atlanta, elected Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., as president.

MC appoints John McCall to head Department of Bible

John G. McCall, for 30 years the pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, has accepted the appointment as professor of Bible and head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College effective Aug. 1.

McCall, a former member of the College's Board of Trustees and a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, retired from the Vicksburg pastorate on Oct. 17, 1982, and more recently has been serving on the teaching faculty at Southern

Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The veteran denominational leader will be assuming a position that has been vacant for almost a year following the resignation of A. Jack Glaze to accept a teaching post at New Orleans Seminary.

A native of Quitman, Ga., McCall was reared in Madison, Fla., and earned the bachelor of arts degree from John B. Stetson University in Deland, Fla. He pastored the First Baptist Church of Apopka, Fla., before entering Southern Seminary where he received the master of theology degree in 1943.

He then entered Army service as a chaplain in which position he served

(Continued on page 5)



McCall

Louie Newton, former SBC president, dies at 94

ATLANTA (BP) — Louie D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1946 to 1948, died June 3 of pneumonia at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta. He was 94.

Newton, who was pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta for 40 years, was the oldest-living former SBC president when he died. Born in Screven County, Ga., in 1892,

he was a graduate of Mercer University in Macon and Columbia University in New York.

As a young reporter for the New York World, he refined his writing skills through interviews with John D. Rockefeller, Thomas A. Edison, Charles Evans Hughes and Rudyard Kipling. Those skills later aided him as publicity director for the SBC's "75 Million" campaign to pay debts owed by hospitals, schools and agencies. The same year, 1919, Georgia Baptists purchased the Christian Index from private interests and named him editor.

Following the death of his pastor at Druid Hills, Newton, who was chairman of the deacons, was offered the ministerial post. He became pastor on April 1, 1929.

His reputation spread as he hammered on the familiar Baptist themes of the day — anti-liquor, anti-pornography, anti-slot machines — and by protesting to every president from Franklin Roosevelt to Richard Nixon for sending envoys to the Vatican. He was a founder of the Georgia Temperance League.

Newton became a frequent visitor to the corridors of power and counsel-

ed with presidents. This year, following a unanimous vote of the Georgia Assembly, his portrait was hung in the state capitol. He was only the third minister so honored.

Newton was chairman of the SBC's finance committee for 25 years and vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He also was a co-founder of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

He once led a nationwide campaign to collect kits of clothing for orphans in war-torn Russia and a Bible and a pipe for Joseph Stalin. The campaign immediately drew fire from the Bap-

tist right led by Fort Worth, Texas, pastor J. Frank Norris, who branded Newton a communist sympathizer. Norris harassed Newton with telegrams each Sunday for months. When eventually presented with the Bible, Stalin bowed and said in Russian, "Thank you."

Newton's weekly radio program, on which he and his wife interviewed notables, ran every Sunday for 57 years until his death.

The Louie D. Newton Center for Extended Care, adjoining Georgia Baptist Medical Center where he died, is

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Newton

Baptist ranks in India swell as families leave former gods

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tians that day and opened their home for Bible study.

During the evangelistic crusade, 50 Southern Baptist volunteers from Kansas and Nebraska worked with 33 Indian Baptist churches to help lead about 3,000 people to faith in Christ. One church was begun immediately in Bangalore, and others there and in Bombay were expected to start.

Until about three years ago, most Southern Baptist mission work with Indian believers was centered around Bangalore, near the southern tip of this densely populated nation of 762 million people. But in 1982 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expanded outreach through an entity called National Indian Ministries.

National Indian Ministries pooled the efforts of Southern Baptist missionaries and other Baptist groups working in the country. One of its primary goals is to help train national Baptists to start churches in areas without witness.

The number of baptisms reported by groups associated with the ministries is growing, and new churches are springing up throughout the country. Reports show at least 405 churches are now related to the organizations, more than 50 of which were begun by church planters last year. Since January of this year, seven new congregations have begun services in the Bombay area.

In the region of Orissa, a group of 15 Baptist churches set a goal of 60

baptisms last year. By year's end they had recorded nearly 120 baptisms. "They are themselves astonished at the way the Holy Spirit is working these days," said Sri Daniel James, executive director of the Orissa Baptist Evangelistic Crusade.

Nearly 1,500 Indians were baptized in all groups associated with Southern Baptist mission work last year. Southern Baptists counted 18,423 believers in churches associated with their work at the end of 1985.

"People in India are very responsive. They're very willing to listen to the gospel, and they're seeking," said veteran missionary physician Rebekah Naylor, who works at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore. "They're wide open."

Naylor is leading MasterLife discipleship groups of employees at the hospital. A nurse in one of her groups was so afraid to speak that Naylor was unable to hear her questions during MasterLife sessions. But now the nurse goes back to the hospital after work to share with patients she has cared for during the day.

"She told me about one man who was my patient, who had a leg amputation and it had been very, very slow getting well," said Naylor. "He was very depressed. She sat and talked with him a long time about everything, and then she talked to him about Christ."

"The next day she went back to see him just to see if he felt better, and he

said, 'You know, I haven't had any more pain since last night.' She said, 'That's good, but what happened?' And he said, 'Well, I believe now in Christ. After you talked with me I realized Christ was the only way to God. Since then I feel such joy inside that I don't have pain.'"

The hospital had been the cornerstone of work in Bangalore, around which a convention of about 250 churches has been developed. Most of the growth has taken place over the past three years, during which more than 200 new congregations have begun.

Activity at the hospital has increased since it was dedicated in 1973. The hospital reported a total of nearly 7,000 people who attended mid-week worship services and more than 4,000 who came on Sundays last year. The pastoral care staff visited nearly 250 patients at their homes after discharge last year.

One of the most significant changes in the direction of Baptist work in India, Naylor said, could be the inroads begun into the lives of affluent people. Baptists in Bangalore have worked primarily with the poor masses. But Naylor, for example, has begun working with an interdenominational group of medical students and practitioners who hold meetings at which professions of faith are made regularly.

"In the future these people will obviously be responsible citizens," she said. "They'll be the leaders."

Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

Devotional

When fathers fail

2 Kings 21

By Dan Thompson

A close look at the biblical account of the Manasseh as recorded in 2 Kings 21 reveals that he was a man of great responsibility. He succeeded his father Hezekiah as King over Judah. To lead the people as king meant to be the political ruler and spiritual advisor. He assumed this responsibility at the early age of twelve.



Thompson

He is also mentioned later as a father. His son's name was Amon, and the responsibilities of being a father were very great. There was so much at stake because his son would succeed him on the throne.

Not only does the account reveal how he assumed these duties, but also points out how he failed at the most vital point, "he did that which was evil."

From all accounts he managed the political affairs of state in a satisfactory manner. We do not read of any crises of a political or material nature. But he brought on a spiritual crisis. He failed God in the duty as spiritual counsellor and advisor to his children and to the nation. Notice two things that happened when this father failed:

I. A NATION was affected. Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before them. God says "I will bring such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah that whoever hears, his ears will tingle" (v. 12). He also says, "I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down" (v. 13). We are reminded that any time a father forsakes his responsibility at home, a nation and society are affected.

II. A SON was influenced. After his death, his son Amon ruled in his place. The Word says that he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. He walked in the way that his father walked in; served the idols his father served. Surely, his father's influence must have affected him.

The failure of fathers to provide spiritual and moral examples and teaching does have a serious and detrimental effect. God give us faithful fathers!

Dan Thompson is pastor, Harperville Church.



Session trains VBS leaders

A participant asks a question of Mary Hughes, a convenor during a session training black leaders for Vacation Bible Schools across Mississippi this summer. The session was held at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Jerry Young, pastor. Sponsor was the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and the Sunday School Department of the MBCB.

Eastport helps sister church

Phil Dawson, pastor of Eastport Church, Tishomingo County, was one of several pastors from Mississippi to go to Montana in March for simultaneous revivals. "Pioneer missions and mission needs so impressed Dawson he returned to share mission needs with his church," reports Charles Stubblefield, Tishomingo director of missions. "The response of the church was as excited as his, but the church wanted to consider churches closer at home for ministry."

A committee composed of Jerry Booker, Aaron Carson, and Ansel Jones was assigned the task of investigating the needs of several churches. They returned to report the need of a sister church, Short Creek, and recommended giving assistance to them.

Short Creek, organized in 1980 by G. D. Jones, who is still pastor, had built education building and sanctuary. With an indebtedness demanding monthly payments, the church was

heavily pressed to complete some necessary phases of its building. They gave an estimate of funds needed to complete their work. In its May business meeting, Eastport Church voted to give the Short Creek Church \$3,160.00 for completion of necessary work.

On Sunday afternoon, May 11, at the Eastport Church, the two committees met, and Jerry Booker of Eastport presented the check of \$3,160.00 to Pete Trickey of Short Creek.



Left to right are Vernon Gilley, Noonan Floyd, Pete Trickey, members of the Short Creek Church, Charles Stubblefield, director of missions, Jerry Booker and Ansel Jones, members of Eastport Church.

Baptists support anti-hunger bill

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP) — In the aftermath of the celebrated "Hands Across America" fund-raising event, a variety of anti-hunger groups are joining hands in support of legislation intended to provide more assistance for the nation's hungry.

"The Hunger Relief Act of 1986," a comprehensive anti-hunger bill, will provide nearly \$1 billion in additional money for fiscal year 1987 to expand and improve food assistance programs.

Included in the legislation, S. 2495 in the Senate and H.R. 4880 in the House, are proposals which would:

— Increase participation in the

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children. While the program now serves 3.3 million people, an estimated 7 million additional women and children eligible for the assistance fail to receive it. The program serves "nutritionally-at-risk" pregnant and post-partum women, infants and children under age five.

— Increase food stamp benefits and improve communication with eligible persons about the availability of such assistance. Studies indicate about 41 percent of those eligible for food stamps do not receive them.

— Improve the nutritional quality of

the School Meals Program while reducing the cost of school breakfasts and lunches.

— Increase participation in nutrition programs for the elderly.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, praised the legislation as "another weapon in the American arsenal aimed at eliminating hunger." If the bill becomes law, he pointed out, more than 10 times the estimated amount of money raised by "Hands Across America" will go to assist those at risk to hunger.

David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

MC appoints John McCall to head Department of Bible

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three years, with 18 months of that being in the European Theatre with the 94th Infantry Division. After discharge from the Army he returned to Southern Seminary and earned the doctor of theology degree in 1949. He also studied at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

McCall has held pastorates in Kentucky, Florida, and North Carolina, in addition to his long tenure of service at First Baptist Church in Vicksburg where he holds the title of pastor emeritus.

Active in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention, McCall served as a member of the Radio and Television Commission of the SBC and is a former member of the Executive Committee of the SBC.

He served for two years as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and was also a member of the Long Range Study Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board. He served for 12 years on the Mississippi College Board of Trustees, including a stint as vice-president of the board.

McCall is married and the father of two sons, John G. and Dennis, both of whom are also in denominational work.

Louie Newton

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named for him, as is a cottage at the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Palmetto. The Baptist church on the Mercer campus was renamed Newton Hall in his honor.

His wife, the former Julia Carstarphen of Macon whom he married in 1915, died in 1969. Survivors include two daughters, Eden Elizabeth Gurein and Sarah Catherine Robertson, both of Atlanta; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



This youth choir of Mt. Olive Church sings "Jesus is beyond my imagination." This took place during the first Gulfshore Youth Conference this summer.



Youths from First Church, Lambert, sing and mimic that famous "hymn" about that squirrel that started a revival in the "First Self-righteous Church of Pascagoula."

Youths sing at Gulfshore



Clockwise from left around the table are John Brand, 17, Hickory Church; Mary Johnson, 18, Hickory Church; Chris Batte, 15, Rock Hill Church; Amy Flynt, 16, Rock Hill Church; and Kuyk Home, 18, Inverness Church. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

Amsterdam will broadcast worldwide

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP) — One of the most ambitious projects in religious broadcast history is taking shape around an international conference to be hosted here by evangelist Billy Graham, July 12-21, according to organizers of the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists (ICIE), also known as Amsterdam 86.

A consortium of Christian broadcast organizations from around the world will saturate North American airwaves with eight nightly one-hour magazine-style radio programs from Amsterdam 86 by satellite, as well as

producing daily programs in 20 languages for worldwide distribution by traditional means.

"This is the greatest joint endeavor ever in Christian broadcasting," says Paul Ramseyer, head of SkyLight Satellite Network.

The North American programs will be aired by SkyLight, Moody Broadcasting Network, and Satellite Radio Network. The three networks serve more than 500 affiliated stations. Additionally, International Media Service of Washington, D.C., will provide daily news and feature coverage from Amsterdam to well over 100 North

American radio stations by satellite.

Five other organizations have agreed to join forces with ICIE to produce and air daily programs in a variety of languages: Trans World Radio, Far East Broadcasting Company, Far East Broadcasting Association, HCJB/World Radio Missionary Fellowship, and Radio ELWA, the broadcast arm of the Sudan Interior Mission.

Approximately 8,000 evangelists from over 175 nations and territories have been invited to attend ICIE. About 21,000 people applied to attend the event, and many had to be turned away.

Widow of W. C. Morgan dies in Jackson

Mrs. W. C. (Kate Durham Polk) Morgan, 80, of 4083 Robin Drive, Jackson, died June 5, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center from injuries she suffered in an automobile accident May 6 in Clinton. Services were held at 2 p.m. June 9 at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson.

Mrs. Morgan was the daughter of the late J. B. Polk and Annie Durham Polk. Her father was a Baptist preacher who held pastorates in Louisiana and Mississippi. She spent her early life in Clinton, where she was a graduate of Hillman College and Mississippi College.

She received a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and formerly was a librarian for the Jackson public library system and a Bible teacher for Woodland Hills Baptist Academy. She was the widow of W. C. Morgan, who was director of the church music department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Since 1948, Mrs. Morgan had been a teacher of the J.O.Y. Sunday School class for women at Woodland Hills Church. For the past three years she had been a member of the Joy Makers Choir at First Baptist Church, Clinton. She was past president of the 50-year Club of Mississippi College, and had been a guest columnist for the Baptist Record.

She is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Jewell A. (Joy Durham) Davis Jr. of Dallas; brother, Daniel Anderson Polk Sr. of Louisville, Ky.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

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SCRAPBOOK

Dad — a gift from God

A father is the person who says, "Do it, I know you can!"
And from that broad grin down to his toes is every inch a man.
A leader of the family — he motivates by showing.
And never, never allows his children to stop learning or cease growing.
He tells you that every person is special, and makes them feel that way.
Helping his family and fellow man he says "is a great way to spend a day."
In times when you are having doubts, and storm clouds gather round,
Just look for Dad — he's never far — Dad always may be found.
All too soon, the time will come when his earthly work is through,
And as a person you must stand alone, and see what he's done with you.
He's taught you everything he knows, and has gone to take a rest,
But through his love and guidance, you have been truly blessed.
A whispered prayer floats upward, "Thanks to God, I'm not alone."
Thanks for lending me such a dad, and thanks for taking him HOME."

—Joan Young
Highland Church
Laurel

(Tribute to Thomas Walter Tillery, who died May 25, 1986)

Robbing youth

Wake up, Dad, let him live
and give to life what he wants to give!

Not drain from youth
everything you can

Let some things wait
until he's a man

Does it fill your need
as a boasting dad

Forcing from him what you never
had?

—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley

I'm a part-time daddy

I have a little boy and girl
They call me Daddy, by name.
Lord, I pray they don't grow up
like me
Even though their name is the same.
I'm a part-time daddy.

All the things I'm missing
The tucking in of blankets at night.
The funny little smiles,
Because Daddy is not in sight.
I'm a part-time daddy.

When my boy needs some help
Only a daddy can give.
Who will he turn to?
I'm not there where he lives.
I'm a part-time daddy.

Oh that little girl of mine —
She always likes to crawl upon
my knee —
She's going to grow to be a woman
some day
That I will not see.
Because I'm a part-time daddy.
—Margie Summerlin
Madison

It's hard for a drowning man to
understand that patience is a virtue.

One man said that when his wife
finished her PTA speech, there was a
great awakening. — (Blackie Sherrod
in Dallas Times Herald)

Bouquet in white

In heaven, near the Crystal Sea,
I believe there are many
Beautiful flower gardens;
Their beauty and fragrance
Exceed our imagination.

To me, God's bound to have a garden
Where the flowers are white
And in a few days
Turn bright red,
And then into fluffy white balls.

That's where I first saw God's hand at work:
"You see these cotton plants?
I sow the seed and till the ground,
But God sends the rain and sunshine
And the abundant harvest."

In heaven, there must be a cotton field,
Because that's where you'll find my dad.
And who knows, but God,
That just might be where
Our white robes are made.
—Ruby Singley
Columbia

I'm raising boys

A dad with his two young boys hoeing
in the field,
Tilling the soil with sweating brow
trying to make it yield.
"Them boys," I said, "will cut down
them peas and step on all the plants,
They don't know 'bout gardens, you're
shore takin' a chance.
They're just kids, should be playin'
in the shade,
Why, they're gonna mess up the good
things you done made."

The father never raised his head, his
brow it did not frown.
Showed them how to hold the hoe,
wouldn't let them put it down.
He said to me, "This garden of mine
brings food as well as joys,
But I ain't just raisin' peas,
I'm also raisin' boys."
—Ellen Daniels
Brandon

(Copyright 1985)



Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Need in Indiana

Editor:

During our Good News Revival here in Plymouth, Indiana, which by the way is pioneer missions country, we had the wonderful privilege of having three fine Mississippi Baptists on the revival team. Dan and Mera Hall of Clinton and Alicia Farnham of McComb greatly blessed our hearts and touched our lives.

Upon their arrival and stay of several days, they became burdened by our mission church. We urgently need a mission-minded, retired couple with a camper who could be bold and aggressive enough to help the pastor knocking on doors, witnessing, and teaching Bible study classes. We are the sole, single Southern Baptist work in a county of over 80,000 people and a city of over 15,000 people. This couple would have to come at their own expense.

If you feel the leading of the Lord, please contact me or Brother Dan Hall, music director of the Mississippi Convention.

Mark J. Wolgamott, pastor

Marshall Baptist Church
P. O. Box 255
Plymouth, Indiana 46563
(219) 936-5801 or 936-5886

Pastor in need

Editor:

The pastor at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Quitman, Aubrey Jones is very ill and, at this point, very little can be done for him medically. The opinions of three doctors are that he is totally disabled and must give up his life's work and duty of serving God and the people in his church, all of whom he truly loves and has gladly and joyfully served. My heart breaks for him.

But even more, I am truly disturbed that a man who has faithfully served God and church members for over 23 years now has no home and nowhere to go for whatever period of time God sees fit to let us have him.

I believe the medical bills are astronomical, his income almost nonexistent, and his youngest daughter just graduated from high school with honors and has a grant based on their previous income to attend Jones Junior College.

Because Bro. Aubrey felt called to serve small, needy churches, the amount of his annuity is extremely small and even that will take months to develop. His wife, Peggy, who has, of course, equally served God and church members for the same number of years, will not be able to seek employment for some time because she will need to stay with him.

If ever two deserving Christians need the love, prayers and help of their fellow Christians, it's these two wonderful people.

Name withheld
by request

Problem of lordship

Editor:

I am writing to express my concern about a problem that is eating away at our churches and the Southern Baptist Convention. It is the problem of lordship.

A Southern Baptist pastor has stated that the pastor is the ruler of the church. This contention flies in the face of the biblical teaching that we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (I Peter 2:9). It overlooks the statement by John the Revelator that we are a kingdom of priests to God.

One of the marks of a cult is a strong, autocratic leader. In order to belong to such a group, you must accept the leader in his role.

It is certainly true that Christian churches have grown under this style of leadership, but that does not make it biblical.

Not all growing churches are founded on biblical truth. Strong, dynamic, autocratic pastors are thriving in our Southern Baptist Convention. They are truly the rulers of their churches. Committees practically worship them and go along with their decisions because these men know how to "grow a church."

I recently read in the Baptist Record that the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference met in an-

nual session on March 6 at First Church Natchez.

At this meeting, a resolution was adopted unanimously. The resolution states that the calling and the termination of a minister ought to be done by action of the church body, not one individual or small groups. The resolution also states that ministers are to labor side by side as it is taught in our seminaries, our literature and the Bible.

If the concept of calling to the ministry is truly a valid concept, it must be affirmed by all the ministers of the church staff including the pastor. This includes a mutual respect and admiration for other people's spiritual gifts.

Name withheld
by request

Bible School literature

Editor:

I am writing concerning our Bible School Literature. One of my teachers called my attention to the Youth Pupil's book, Session 2, Page 7, "I am Accepted" YOU CHOOSE . . .

I agree that we need to teach our youth that Jesus will accept them, any way they are, but we are not to teach them to make the kind of choice that we find in this lesson . . . between old, and young, rich and poor, educated and uneducated . . . and the choice is who will live and who will die. I think this is humanism, and I am very disappointed to find this kind of lesson in the Youth Literature of Southern Baptist Vacation Bible School.

We are returning these books with a letter of explanation, and I pray that

someone will take notice and screen our literature in the future.

Sincerely,
S. E. O'Brian, pastor
Riverhill Church
Fulton

Pastor needed

Editor:

Our church is seeking candidates for pastor. Our current pastor is leaving to serve as a foreign missionary to Taiwan.

We are a small resort town church in the Colorado Rockies. Send resume to Jim Kunes, Box 175, Crested Butte, Colorado 81224.

Spirit of integrity

Editor:

Your editorial, "Time To Pay Attention," was for me refreshing and needed. For so long we have had reckless and unsupported statements, from responsible persons, left unchallenged. The prejudicial use of the Peace Committee's report on diversity in the denomination is another "case in point." Tragically, the effort of that committee has been suggested as the motivation for one man to declare his candidacy for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency.

For me, all I want to do is stay home, pastor my church, and see the gospel boldly reach our world. For our denominational leadership in high places, I would suggest we need a basic word study. If "inerrancy" is to be our creedal word, then "integrity" must be our spirit.

Al Finch, pastor
First Church Greenwood

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Thursday, June 12, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

"Please pray for Nepal"



Nepali children talk with their Sunday School teacher, at their meeting place in the courtyard, outside the sanctuary, which is a part of the pastor's home.

Two inescapable questions I faced in Nepal. If I were a Hindu and wanted to become a Christian — and knew I could be jailed if I did — would I? If I faced the real possibility of a prison sentence for propagating the gospel, would I be brave enough to give out Bibles and witness anyhow?

A team from the United States and Britain visited Nepal in January to talk with government leaders about the persecution of Christians in that country. (See story on this page.)

I went to church twice in Kathmandu, Saturday and Sunday. The English-speaking community, all denominations together, worships Sunday mornings at Lincoln School. The organist, Betty Taylor, is a Southern Baptist who is secretary to the U.S. ambassador to Nepal. After the song service and during preaching, the children went to their Sunday School rooms. A tea table had been prepared outdoors; the congregation stayed in its vicinity for a long time of fellowship around noon.

Nepali Christians hold their church services on Saturday, as that is the rest day from work. At 10 a.m. the members of the church I attended were cordially greeting each other in the sunlit courtyard. The sanctuary for that church is a large room, a part of the pastor's house. No sign denotes that worship services are held here, but people passing along the street often hear the singing and enter to hear more.

Worshippers took off their shoes outside the door. Inside they sat on mats on the floor. I sat on one of the few chairs, near a window. I could look out at the pastor's vegetable garden and the houses on the hill beyond it. The congregation is non-denominational, as are all the Nepali churches which call themselves Christians.

The next two hours were filled with joyous praise and adoration. The time only seemed too short. "His Name Is Wonderful," they sang several times. "His Banner Over Me Is Love." Some of the scriptures the pastor read were

Psalm 115, Psalm 150, Mark 12, John 3, Matthew 10:31-32, and Isaiah 5:1-7. He would say a few sentences in Nepali and then a few in English. One sentence I especially remember: "Jesus Christ is love's last appeal to a dying world." And Matthew 10:31: "Whoso shall confess me before men I will confess before my Father in heaven."

Several raised their hands, indicating that they wanted to confess Jesus as Saviour. That was when the question hit me: If I were in the place of one of them, would I really have the courage to confess him publicly?

Yet, I was told by one Christian, there are professions of faith in this church, and others, every week. "They are hungry for the Word." Official reports list 4,000 Christians in Nepal, but one man said the number is nearer to 20,000 to 25,000. World Literature Crusade teams (Nepalis) have accepted danger to themselves in order to distribute Bibles.

Some who have received Scripture portions have walked miles over the mountains seeking more information, or asking to be baptized, willing to risk a year in prison for changing religions and, at the end of the year in jail, being told to return to their old religion. At weddings and funerals, observers may notice they are not taking part in the Hindu rites as usual, and report them.

During the church services, prayers were uttered asking that a Bible shipment from India, stopped at the border, might be released.

Recently, on May 19, influential Hindus organized a protest march against the activities of Christians. My friend in Kathmandu has written, "Please mobilize more prayer support for us and explain our cause against the powers of darkness."

For some time Joan had been praying that we might be able to share our beliefs with at least one unbeliever in Nepal. Together we prayed we might be able to know to whom to speak, and what and how much to say. I thought



A Nepali Christian congregation worships on a Saturday morning in Kathmandu. The sign on the rear wall would mean in English, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

U.S. British delegation says Nepali Christians are tortured

KATHMANDU, Nepal (EP) — A delegation of British and U.S. officials on a private trip to investigate reported religious rights abuses here said it found ample evidence of outright persecution and torture during its six-day mission.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Randhir Subba, the group asked the Hindu government of the Kingdom of Nepal to examine some specific problems. The foreign minister reportedly assured the group that the problems raised would be "thoroughly pursued by the government."

Sponsored by Christian Response International (CRI), an in-

terdenominational human rights organization, the fact-finding delegation included two members of British Parliament: David Atkinson (Con-Bouremouth) and David Alton (Lib-Liverpool). Two U.S. Congressional staff representing the offices of U.S. Senator Don Nickels (R-Okla.) and Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash.), two American attorneys, three CRI senior staff, a pastor, and a businessman completed the delegation.

The group traveled more than 1000 miles across Nepal to conduct its investigation. Members interviewed more than three dozen individuals who have suffered religious rights abuses, attended Christian worship services in each of the communities

of the men in Greece who have been in trouble for giving a New Testament to a teen-ager. And I admit I did not relish the faintest possibility of spending six years, or even six days, in prison.

As we hired the same young Hindu every day to drive us about in his old blue car, we became more and more anxious to witness to him. We came into possession of a bit of Christian literature printed in Nepali. Should we give it to him or not?

The forbidden "propagation of the gospel" might mean baptism of converts, or trying to influence the Hindus and Buddhists to change their religion. I wasn't sure of its exact meaning.

On the third morning in Kathmandu, I was reading my Sunday School lesson when I realized it was about Daniel. Its message gave a direct answer to our questions. One passage stood in bold relief: "Christians need to witness even in threatening situations. In spite of the threat of death, Daniel witnessed to Darius and his court by maintaining his prayer life. He continued to pray before the open window."

In our place, what would you have done?

visited, and discussed and situation with a wide variety of Nepalese Christian leaders.

According to CRI Executive Director Jeff Collins, transcripts of the testimony of persecuted Christians received during the investigation will be provided to the government of Nepal, the U.S. State Department, and the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom.

"It is urgent that Christians throughout the world come immediately to the aid of the persecuted Nepalese believers," concluded Collins. He suggested writing to the Nepalese ambassador in Washington, and praying for increased religious freedom in Hindu-controlled Nepal.

In Bangkok

"I could go to jail," says new Nepali Christian

By Maxine Stewart

Charles Heltman, retired pastor from Ferriday, Louisiana, served as interim pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok, Thailand, between Foreign Mission Board appointed missionary pastors. He went for six months and ended up serving twenty-one months.

Heltman often prayed for "someone" to come along that he could witness to. One Wednesday night, Stanesco Radu, a Romanian refugee who is a member of Calvary Church, took a business man from Nepal to prayer meeting. After the service, the man from Nepal said to pastor Heltman, "I am interested in becoming a Christian."

The pastor took the man to his office and, using the "Four Spiritual Laws," witnessed to him. When they came to the prayer to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, Heltman asked, "Do you understand what this means if you become a Christian?"

"Yes," the man answered. "I understand that I could go to jail." In Nepal when someone converts to Christianity, it means possibly — very probably — jail, even extended sentences in some cases. Heltman asked the man if he were willing to take this risk, and he said, "Yes, I am."

Heltman gave him a copy of missionary Bob Stewart's book on "How to Be A Christian." When the man went to Heltman's discipleship class on Monday night, he said he had read the book twice and wanted 20 copies of it to take to Nepal to give to his friends. "I have found what I've been searching for," he said, "and I want to share it with others."

Maxine Stewart is a Southern Baptist missionary in Thailand

Just for the Record



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, conducted a Parent/Child Dedication Service as part of Mother's Day activities. In this annual event, nine of the 16 babies born since Mother's Day

1985 participated. Each baby was given a child's New Testament and the mother received a red rose and a copy of "A Godly Mother." James Spencer is pastor.



David L. Claxton, pastor of Calvary Church, Starkville, congratulates Kenny Alexander, Michelle Lee, and Traci Vance on their superior rating in State Bible Drills in Tupelo and Starkville.



Children and Youth Bible Drill group from Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany, is pictured. First row, left to right, are Allen Dillard, Kerri Baggett, Tanya Dooley, Mandy Dees, Kalista King, Dani Lynn Bennett, Anthony Baggett, and Brady Daniel. Second row, Mark Dees, Tina Stout, Ginger Little, Chuck Baggett, and Clint Koon. Not pictured, Angie Williams. The leaders were Mr. and Mrs. James Tollison, Mrs. Patti Dillard, Mrs. Bud Dillard, and Mrs. Tom Tate. Donald Baggett is pastor.

Hefley's book not sold at convention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A decision not to sell a book on controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention at the SBC annual meeting sparked disagreement between the book's author and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board officials.

The Truth in Crisis: The Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention by James C. Hefley was not to be sold at the board's Baptist Book Store exhibit during the convention, in Atlanta June 10-12, said William S. Graham, book store division director.

The decision not to sell the book was in keeping with the board's

understanding of the SBC Peace Committee's request that all Southern Baptists exercise restraint from division or controversy, Graham said. He noted the book has been and will continue to be available through any of the chain's 63 book stores and mail order centers across the country.

Hefley, writer-in-residence at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., said he respectfully disagreed with the board's decision not to sell the book at the convention.

Graham said the chain's book store and mail order centers "are making the book available if it is in stock. In locations that do not have copies on

hand, employees will assist persons in obtaining a copy by placing an order for them from the publisher. If customers prefer, we will provide information so they may order the book directly from the publisher."

Revival Dates

Sebastopol Church: June 15-20, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Wade Chappell, evangelist; John Sharp, pastor; Susan Horton, music director; a special emphasis planned for each service.



Acteens of Parkway Church, Natchez, sponsored a Mother Daughter Tea, May 18, to honor the GAs and their mothers.



Names in the News

General Louis Wilson of Brandon, holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor and former Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, will be at Mississippi College on Friday, June 13, to deliver the annual Mc-Lemore Lecture as part of the College's American Studies Seminar.



The lecture is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the Learning Resources Center of the Leland Speed Library. Wilson will be speaking on "The Strategic Forces of the United States: Their Mission, Capabilities, and Limitations." The public is invited.

Linda Little, Prentiss, has been employed by Attala Association as summer activities director. Linda, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Little of Prentiss, has just recently graduated from Prentiss Christian School. She is a member of Prentiss Church and has participated in mission trips with her parents in Ohio, Kansas, Oklahoma and Oregon. During 1984 she went with a 12 member choir from



her church to Argentina. Her duties for the summer will be to organize Bible schools and other related activities in churches, parks, trailer parks and apartment complexes.



Three women from Mississippi recently attended the 1986 Writers Conference at Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala. More than 50 writers from all over the United States participated in the conference which gave instruction and preparation for writing materials for 1987-88. Pictured l to r: Mignonne Tadlock, Jackson; Sharon Neff, Arcola; and Barbara Wilkinson, Brandon.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Betty J. Kennedy, managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, news journal of Arkansas Baptists, has resigned, and the newsmagazine's board of directors has named staff writer Mark Kelly to succeed her.

BOLIVAR, MO. (BP) — Charles Chaney, president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., since Dec. 1, 1983, has resigned that position effective June 30. He will remain at the university as special assistant to the chancellor and dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations.

The change in roles was requested by Chaney because he felt the demands of the presidency for the next few years required him to move further away from his major vocational commitment.

her church to Argentina. Her duties for the summer will be to organize Bible schools and other related activities in churches, parks, trailer parks and apartment complexes.

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New Liberty looks to 75th anniversary

New Liberty Church, Rt. 1, Glen, Tishomingo County, will celebrate its 75th anniversary June 18-22 with all former living pastors participating.

The celebration will begin on June 18 with Talmadge White of Shady Grove Church preaching, June 19 with Eddie Hamilton of First Church, Carthage; June 20 with Jimmy Bryant of South Summerville Church, Summerville, Ga.; June 21 with Raybon Richardson of Biggersville Church, Biggersville; and Sunday, June 23, all day services with Pastor T. E. Nethery in charge. Grace Bible Baptist Church Singers of Iuka and Harmony Hill Singers of Burnsville will sing on Sunday afternoon. Evening services will begin at 7:30.

The church was organized in 1911 with eleven charter members. For several years, they met in the two-room Holloway School building. The Chapel Hill Methodist Church allowed them to use their building for revivals. Around 1922, the first building was constructed on land donated by Charlie Benick. In 1942 the church was relocated in a more favorable location with much of the

materials from the first building being used. Again the land was donated, this time by Mrs. Lou Thompson. The church now occupies a new building occupied in June 1985 on this same location with some additional land being given by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Kennedy.

The first Sunday School was organized January 8, 1939, with 108 members. The church began full time services, with the exception of 4th Sunday, which was reserved for many years as Chapel Hill preaching day, on Aug. 23, 1942.

Over the past 75 years the church has had eleven pastors and one assistant pastor. The early pastors were C. A. Deloach, W. L. Norman, A. L. Spencer, J. E. Bowland, M. C. Roland, and C. C. Perry. Perry, who retired from the pastorate in 1965, served the church 39 years. The last few years of his pastorate, he was assisted by Horace Credille.

The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Marlar, J. T. and Alice Hall, Garvin Hall, L. E. and A. R. Frost, Pearl Hall, Mollie Hall, George and Ella Marlar.

Flood damages mission property in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP) — Floodwater two feet deep swept through the Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary in Bangkok in May, ruining doors and damaging beds and other items such as books and graduation gowns.

Standing floodwater also warped the doors of Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok and covered ground floors in the homes of Southern Baptist missionaries Richard and Linda Blount and Bill and Karen Hitt.

The May flooding was touched off by Bangkok's heaviest rain in 500 years, said Chamlong Srimuang, governor of the city. Fifteen inches of rain fell in 24 hours, inundating the ci-

ty, halting commerce and eventually leading to the death of at least 50 people.

The flood dealt damage to files, music materials and books on the campus of the Baptist seminary. Doors swelled and separated, and teak pews in the chapel sat in two feet of water for several days. Four pianos had to be lifted above the water on blocks.

Water several inches deep seeped into storage units on the faculty compound next-door, soaking mattresses and whatever else stood outside sealed metal drums. Water was found inside nearly every mission vehicle on the seminary compound.

Sunday School director sings 'Amazing Grace' from rooftop

"I have heard of fiddler on the roof," says Jerry Stevens, director of missions, Winston County, "but I don't believe I have ever heard of solo from the roof."

The Sunday School director, Jack Pearson, of Antioch Church, Winston County, made a promise that if the attendance in Sunday School reached 100 on a given Sunday that he would stand on the roof and sing "Amazing Grace." Not only did Pearson do that, but reports go that the pastor, Auzie Sullivan, joined him for a duet, because they had more than 100 in Sunday School.

"This is due in great part to the bus ministry they have begun," says Stevens, "averaging 19-20 on Sunday mornings."

Run will help raise funds for Baptist Mission Center

"Run for the Son" will be a fundraiser for the Crestwood Baptist Mission Center in Jackson. The 5K (3.1 miles) race will begin at 8 a.m. June 21, starting in the front of First Church, Jackson, winding through

downtown Jackson.

Fees are \$8 to \$10 depending on when registering. T-shirts go to all participants. For details, contact First Church, Jackson at 355-2911. Rez Johnson is race director.

Intensive care

Drugs are just as deadly as a loaded gun. Don't take chances with your life



Drink until he dies?

It seems strange that someone would drink until he dies. Doesn't this fact emphasize the power of addiction?

That's right. We are talking about a never-ending phenomenon that occurs, and this is indicated by some research done with monkeys. They were given food and a substance like cocaine, which is considered the epitome of the stimulant drugs. The monkeys continued to go back to the

cocaine in spite of everything else that was important to their survival.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with Dr. Ed Burchak of the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.



Walsh and Cothen



Boutwell and Cothen

Seminary awards presented Michael Walsh, J. B. Boutwell

Michael R. Walsh and John Keith Boutwell, Mississippians, were two of five persons presented awards May 13 by Joe H. Cothen, vice president for academic affairs, New Orleans Seminary.

Michael R. Walsh, from Forest, was named the 1986 outstanding student in the master of divinity degree program at New Orleans Seminary. He is married to Gwen Bostian Walsh and holds the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College.

John Keith Boutwell, minister of education and youth at Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, was named the

1986 outstanding student in the master of religious education degree program at New Orleans Seminary. The Canton, Miss., native is married to Betty Cooper Boutwell. He holds the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University.

Cothen said, "The recipients of the outstanding student awards have been chosen on the basis of excellence and spiritual qualities, academic achievement, and professional promise."

Plaques listing the award and selection of books were presented to each recipient.

Lottie Moon totals almost \$67 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists contributed \$66,862,113.65 to the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The offering, Southern Baptists' largest ever, will help support nearly 3,700 Southern Baptist missionaries overseas. It totaled 95.5 percent of the 1985 goal of \$70 million.

Mission planners budgeted the entire \$70 million goal last year, but the shortfall will not affect personal missionary support. It will require cuts in overseas capital budgets, which fund missionary housing and cars, church construction and other needs.

The 1981 offering was the last to surpass its goal. The 1986 goal will be \$75 million.



Matthew and Elizabeth King

Music traveling team begins work in state

Matthew and Elizabeth King, who recently moved to Mississippi from Colorado, are entering into a full-time music traveling ministry.

Says King, "My wife and I have a ministry of encouragement through the vehicle of music to the local church and pastor. We do not sing simply to perform, but in every song we select, we seek to uplift the name, character, majesty, and greatness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our ministry is centered mainly around revivals, concerts and some youth camps."

Matthew, 29, was born in New Jersey, and was graduated from Arlington Baptist College, Arlington, Tex., and studied at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. He has been serving churches as youth/music director for ten years in Texas and at Craig, Colo. He and his wife now live at 142 Chasewood Drive, Jackson 39212. He is an associate music evangelist with the Alan Celoria Evangelistic Association.

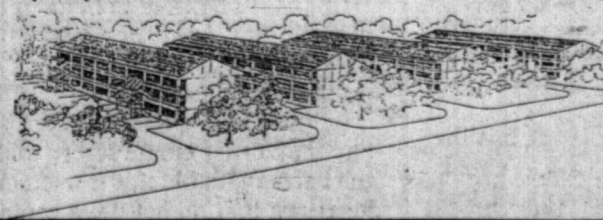
Elizabeth has been playing the piano since she was eight. She was church pianist for Calvary Baptist Church, Craig, Colo., before moving to Jackson. During her college years she travelled with a trio all over the United States. When not on the road, she is a homemaker and says she enjoys teaching piano and working with children's choirs.

The Kings are available for revivals and concerts. They may be contacted at the above address or by phone at 601-371-1615.

They are members of Hillcrest Church, Jackson.

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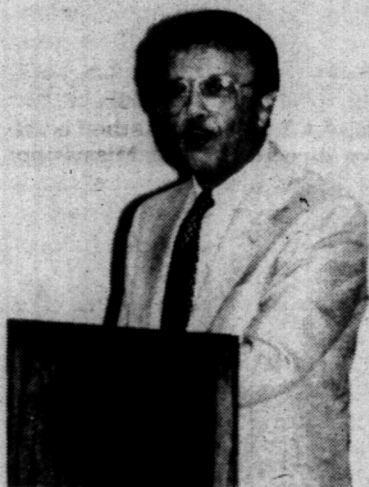


Senior Adult Corner



The senior adult choir of Parkway Church, Jackson, performs the senior adult musical, "Meet and Eat, There IS Something More," at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian May 20 during the second of three Senior Adult Conferences there. The musical was written by Ann Colbert and Irene Martin, both of Forest. Ann Colbert accompanies the choir at the piano. Gayle Garrett is the director of the Parkway senior adult choir, the Heavenly Sunlight Singers.

Senior Adult Conference at Gulfshore



James Richardson, pastor of First Church, Madison, was the preacher for the second Senior Adult conference at Gulfshore.



Jim Hayes, minister of music for First Church, Hattiesburg, was the music director for the second Senior Adult conference at Gulfshore. Ethel McKeithen, retired WMU consultant, had charge of the fellowship time. Arlynd Eyl, minister of education at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, was the associate program leader. Others on the program were Jerry Chiles, Dalton, Ga.; Fuller Saunders, Jackson; Jan Lukens, Biloxi; Dean Register, Gulfport; and W. W. Walley, Waynesboro. J. Clark Hensley, Jackson, consultant for senior adult ministries for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was program director.



Art Nelson, retired business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at the organ, and Mrs. James Richardson, wife of the pastor of First Church, Madison, at the piano, were the accompanists for the second week of Senior Adult conferences at Gulfshore.

Family Week June 30-July 4 will offer special program on parenting

By J. Clark Hensley
Family Ministry Consultant, MBCB

Churches and associations are catching on to the concept of ministering to families. Increased attendance at Gulfshore family events is among the evidence and there are still two special weeks ahead.

Family Week June 30-July 4 offers a special program on parenting by Dr. & Mrs. Guy Greenfield of Fort Worth, but there are special activities for the entire family. First Church, Vicksburg has 47 registered for this conference. There is still room.

Senior Adult IV Aug. 19-23, has the theme "Walking With God — One is Never Alone." It is anticipated that many who could not get in the May

senior conferences will register for the August date.

The special feature of Senior Adult II was a musical by Parkway Church, Jackson — "Meet and Eat, there is something more." Already another church has indicated a desire to bring a full choir contingent next year.

Another significant evidence of concern for families by associational directors of missions is the enlargement of the family ministry organization by many of the associations now selecting not only an associational family ministry director but a senior adult director, single adult director, and family enrichment director as well.

A third sign: many churches are

now in the midst of observing Christian Home Emphasis month with special activities from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

To me, the best evidence of all is that more pastors are making wider use of the Family Ministry Plan book they receive in each May issue of the Baptist Program.

Since January 1 the family ministry programs of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are under one family ministry consultant while the Christian Action Commission, Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer, continues to offer resources and help to the churches, associations and individuals concerning the many issues that affect family life.

Zion Hill near Liberty makes plan for 175th

Zion Hill Church, ten miles north of Liberty on highway 567, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on June 15. It was on June 11, 1811, that 16 people met and constituted this church. From that small beginning, in an area of Amite County many miles from any town, Zion Hill came into existence. Today, a newly bricked church sits on the same spot where these 16 people prayed and committed themselves and the church property to the glory of God.

The present congregation of 106 members has set aside June 15 as a time of remembering her past, of honoring her ancestors. Pastor Odus Jackson says, "We are thankful for our heritage. But we want also to recommit ourselves so we can pass on a heritage that is just as rich, if not richer, to those who follow after us. Our theme for the day says it all. '175 Years' points us back to our roots. 'And Counting' points us forward and causes us to commit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus in our lives."

The anniversary celebration will include a morning service that will begin at 10:30, a noon meal at the church, and an afternoon singing on the church grounds. The special guests for the morning service will be Martha Jean Murray Curtis, Victor Walsh, and Earl Kelly. Murray is the daughter of deacon Earl and Mrs. Lelia Mae Murray of Zion Hill. She

was church pianist while growing up in the Zion Hill community and will play for the morning service and sing two solos. Murray is a Doctor of Psychiatry, now living and working in Jackson.

Victor Walsh, a native of Liberty, is now living in McComb where he has a dental practice. He will lead the singing for the morning service and sing a solo. Walsh is a direct descendant of one of the charter members of Zion Hill, who was also one of the first deacons elected by the church. As can be best determined, Cornelius Whittington was Victor's great, great, great, great, great grandfather.

The speaker for the morning service will be Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention Board.

Zion Hill will provide the noon meal. Pastor Jackson says, "All we want the people to bring is a lawn chair and themselves." The Gospel Five, The Causey Family, The Mt. Pleasant Boys Quartet, and Ivy Butler, and Dennis Dykes will sing during the afternoon.

Jackson, says, "We want all of the Baptist Record readers to know they are invited to come and celebrate this milestone with our church family. It is going to be a great day as we remember our past, recommit ourselves to the Lord for the future, and honor our Lord Jesus Christ."

Missionaries on furlough

Mississippians now on furlough include the following:

Winfield and Laverne Applewhite, Indonesia, 108 Caribbean Cove, Clinton; Ralph and Gena Calcote, Japan, 1625 Easy St., Yazoo City; Daniel and Sharon Bradley, Kenya, Box 302, Long Beach; Warren and Joanah Rush, Senegal, 1044 Wolfe St., Jacksonville, Fla.; Glenn and Polly Morris, Hong Kong, 321 Hopkins Road, Baltimore, Md.; James P. and Dottie Gilbert,

Panama, 919 Reaves St., Jackson; Glenn and Patt Bien, Bangladesh, Rt. 2, Box 137-A, Coldwater; and Paul and Margie Thibodeaux, Eastern Europe, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Abbie Thibodeaux, Box 511, Oxford 38655.

Others to arrive this month will include John and Sara Perkins, France; Harry and Frances Raley, Taiwan; Rodrick and Caroline Conerly, Peru; Philip and Laura Dunaway, Brazil.

Softball tournament set for August

The 25th annual Mississippi Baptist Softball Tournament is set for Aug. 8-9, for both men and women, with men's regionals July 25-26. No regionals are set for women, so any women's team may play in the state playoffs, according to Tom Prather, tourney director.

This year, only members of the same church are allowed to play on a team. Prospects are not eligible.

Deadline for entry form, fee, and roster (signed by the pastor) is July 9. Cost of the women's playoffs is \$95. Men's regionals is \$95 with an additional \$35 required for those who advance to the state.

For details and entry forms, contact Tom Prather at Box 509, Clinton, Miss., 39056.

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Retirement dinner honors Gladys Bryant at ECJC

Gladys Bryant was honored May 13 with a retirement dinner sponsored by the BSU area advisory committee. The dinner was held at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, where Miss Bryant is a member. It was in celebration of her 35 years as director of Baptist student work. She will retire June 30 as BSU director at East Central Junior College, Decatur.

Wayne Herrington, Meridian, a former BSU president at ECJC, was emcee for the evening. Herrington is a medical technician and an employee of the Home Mission Board, SBC.

Many friends and former students were present for the dinner, including several former BSU presidents, and present and former BSU directors who have worked with "Miss B," as they call her.

Those on program included Gus Merritt, pastor, Clarke Venable; Louie Farmer, retired BSU director, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; Eddie Smith, president, East Central Junior College, and a former student there; and Wade

Chappell, former student, who is pastor at Grandview Church, Rankin County.

Merritt presented Miss Bryant a gift from the Newton County Baptist Association.

Gladys Bryant has worked 28½ years (in two stints) at East Central Junior College and 6½ years at Itawamba Junior College as director.

She was born in Covington County and grew up in Jones County. Her father, A. A. Bryant, was for 50 years a pioneer preacher in south Mississippi. His last pastorate was at Shelton Church, Jones County. Her mother, 98, lives with her now at Decatur.

After graduation from Clarke College and New Orleans Seminary, she worked for three years with the state Church Training department.

Originally she had felt her call was to missionary service, but she found the college campus to be her mission field. There she has touched and strengthened many lives and has seen others profess faith in Christ, and some enter the ministry, the mission field, and other forms of Christian service.



Seven former BSU presidents at East Central Junior College during the tenure of Gladys Bryant as BSU director attended the retirement dinner for her. Miss Bryant has been BSU director at the college for 35 years. Left to right, the seven are Haywood Reeves, Forest; Wayne Herrington, Meridian; Miss Bryant; Jackie Wilson, Jackson; Scotty Goldman, Philadelphia; Roger Hines, Atlanta, Ga.; Frankie Moore, Memphis, Tenn.; and Joe Gilbert, Atlanta, Ga.

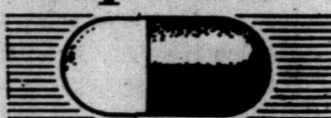


BSU directors and other Student Work personnel and their spouses who attended the retirement dinner honoring Gladys Bryant are pictured. Front row, left to right, Louie Farmer, Hattiesburg, retired BSU director at USM; Mrs. Louie Farmer; Miss Bryant; Mrs. Ralph Winders; Ralph Winders, Jackson, retired director, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Jerry Merriman, director, Department of Student Work, MBCB. Back row: J. B. Costilow, Newton, BSU director, Clarke College; Mrs. J. B. Costilow; Wayne Herrington, Meridian, who was emcee at the dinner and is a medical technician and employee of the Home Mission Board; Mrs. Wayne Herrington, BSU director at Meridian Junior College and employee of Home Mission Board; Jimmy Breland, BSU director, Delta State University, Cleveland.



Eddie Smith, president, East Central Junior College, speaks during a dinner honoring Gladys Bryant, left. Smith, a graduate of ECJC, was a student there during the time Miss Bryant has been BSU director.

Capsules



Bibles given Buddhist monks

BANGKOK, Thailand (EP) — The Thailand Bible Society plans to supply 5,000 Bibles to Buddhist monasteries around the country, for use in a daily period of study and contemplation. "It is hoped that the Bible will be a help to the monks when they study comparative religion, and that it may also guide them in their own personal search for truth," a report from the United Bible Societies says. The Bibles will have saffron-colored covers, to match the orange robes worn by Thai monks.

Yellowstone awards degrees

YELLOWSTONE BAPTIST COLLEGE, located at 1515 Shiloh Road, Billings, conducted its second Commencement Exercise, awarded the first Bachelor of Arts degrees and an Associate of Arts degree, May 10. Taking part in the commencement exercise were Wm. C. Robbins, president; Curtis R. Ellis, former president, and Mr. W. V. "Chief" McKnight, chairman of the board of directors.

Missouri executive director diagnosed with leukemia

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. (BP) — Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Rheubin L. South has been diagnosed as suffering from leukemia. He is being treated at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

A personal word

(Continued from page 2) their work and pointing to the needs of senior adults.

"Because of his significant help and encouragement to the Heavenly Sunlight Singers of Parkway Baptist Church, we respectfully dedicate the presentation of this musical to Don

Thursday, June 12, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Staff Changes

David L. Claxton has recently been called as pastor of Calvary Church, Starkville. He was previously assistant pastor and minister of evangelism at Parkway Church, Jackson, and is a former pastor of New Salem Church, Caledonia. His wife, Lynn Roberts Claxton and children Brad, 15, and Alicia, 13, will join him at the end of the school term.

A native of Newton, Ala., Claxton graduated from high school in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and received his BA degree in religion from Florida State University. He later earned MRE, Th.M. and Th.D. degrees at New Orleans Seminary.

Eddie Wilhite, minister of music and youth, Shiloh Church, Alcorn Association, was ordained April 27. Mark Cayson brought the ordination message, and Dwight Massengill, interim pastor, brought the charge to the church and candidate. Wilhite graduated from Blue Mountain College May 4.

Mike Parks has resigned as minister of youth at Shiloh Church, Alcorn Association. Dwight Massengill is interim pastor.

Mark McIntyre has recently been called as minister of music by First Church, Lauderdale. He goes from Shubuta Church.

Jerry Doggett has moved from Clarke County to Petal, and is serving as pastor of Macedonia Church, Lebanon Association.

Keith Powell has resigned as pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Hazelhurst. He will be entering his junior year in the fall semester, at Mississippi College.

He is married to the former Kim Hendricks of Grenada, and they have a six month old boy, Daniel Keith.

Powell is available for pulpit supply, revivals, pastor or assistant pastor. He may be reached by calling 924-8478, or writing to 100 Fairmont Ave., Apt. B-9, Clinton, MS 39056.

Anna Maria Denenea, a native of Covington, La., began her ministry, May 25, as summer-youth worker at Corinth Church, Heidelberg. She is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. Edd Holloman is pastor.

First Church, Lambert has recently called J. Courtney Selvy as pastor. Selvy and his wife, Sally, have two children, Justin, six, and Erin, three. The Selvys moved to Lambert from Bentonla Church.

Eddie Prince, former pastor of Oak Grove, Northwest Association, has moved to the pastorate of Ebenezer Church, Tate County, in the same association.

Ben Carlisle has been called as pastor of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, and began his ministry June 1. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He was previously pastor of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Carlisle

Active in denominational activities, Carlisle has served as associational Church Training director, Pastor's Conference president, BSU Advisory Committee chairman and association moderator.

He is married to the former Etta Causey, and they have three daughters, Christi, Kathy, and Karen.

Harold T. Kitchings Jr. has accepted a position as minister of youth and activities at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson. Kitchings this month received the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kitchings of Clinton. (His father is executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.) He is married to the former Kellie Vaughn of Franklin, Tenn.

Kitchings

Calvary Church, Greenwood, has called Wayne G. Berry from East Booneville Church, Booneville. Berry will begin his ministry on June 15.

Calvary Church has also called Pete Bates from East Booneville Church. Both Berry and Bates now live on the church field in Greenwood.

Robert Goode, new pastor of Oak Grove (Northwest) has begun his ministry there. He is a recent graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

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McGregor." That is an honor I am delighted to share with everyone. And to Gayle Garrett, the director, to Marion Townsend, the president, and to all of the members of the Heavenly Sunlight Singers, I must express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Baptist Record

- Life and Work: *The Lord's second coming*
- Uniform: *False worship condemned*
- Bible Book: *Esther becomes queen of Persia*

Esther becomes queen of Persia

By Billy McKay
Esther 1:1-2:23

Introduction. Esther is the story of a Jewess who married a Persian king, Ahasuerus (1:1), who is known in history as Xerxes, the famous Persian monarch. The book is unusual in that the name of God is never mentioned. No divine title or pronoun refers to God. It is suggested that this book had to pass through the hands of the Persian censor. Some have suggested that the Persians would desire a copy of the book for their official archives, and would also substitute the names of their idol gods had the name of God been mentioned. Thus, to prevent this from happening the writer possibly deliberately omitted the name of God altogether. The Jewish readers would readily recognize, however, the sovereign hand of God protecting his covenant people.

Some general information needed to introduce the book is as follows: A. **The penman.** We do not know who wrote the book of Esther. Some suggestions are: (1) The men of the Great Synagogue. (2) On account of 9:20, 32 a number of ancient and modern commentators have supported that Mordecai was the author. Josephus, the Jewish historian, considered Mordecai to be the author. The author was probably a Persian Jew who lived in Susa or thereabouts (cf. Rom. 3:1-2). The author certainly has all the marks of a person who was there as an eyewitness. He has an intimate acquaintance with Persian life and customs. B. **The period.** According to 10:2 the book was written after the death of Ahasuerus (Xerxes). The date of Xerxes' assassination is commonly accepted as 465 B.C. Hence, the date would have been during the lat-

ter half of the fifth century B.C. C. **The people.** This book was probably written to the Jews who had returned to the land in order to encourage them to recognize that God was working on their behalf, even though most Jews had refused to come back to the land. The book became a favorite of the Jews for it told of God's superintending care over his chosen people at a very critical period in their history. D. **The purpose.** Esther tells how God saved the Jews from being destroyed from the face of the earth. God had promised that the Messiah would come from the nation of Israel (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; John 4:22; Rom. 1:16). It tells of the sovereignty and providence of God over his chosen people. The book also gives us a background for the feast of Purim which was celebrated to encourage the remnant.

I. The occasion of Esther becoming

queen (1:1-11). The book of Esther opens with Ahasuerus (Xerxes) making a feast in the third year of his reign (1:3). In his second year he went against Egypt and subdued it. In the third year he called together an assembly to consider an expedition against Greece. This seems to be the assembly mentioned by Herodotus (a Roman historian). The year was 483 B.C. The banquet held was with a great display of wealth and power to impress the nobles of his kingdom, and to enlist their enthusiastic support (1:2-6). The queen, Vashti, was having a separate banquet for the women at the time (1:9). The king, evidently under the influence of wine, summoned the queen to appear at his banquet to display her beauty (1:11).

II. **The obstinacy of Queen Vashti** (1:12-22). Queen Vashti refused to come to the banquet at this was contrary to accepted custom (1:12). The angry king, after consulting with his cabinet members, made a decree putting away his wife permanently. This

example would prevent other wives from assuming too much liberty. Strong drink has a long history of breaking up homes!

III. **The obedience of Esther** (2:1-20). In 480 B.C. Xerxes made the expedition against Greece and returned defeated and depressed. According to Herodotus he now paid attention to his harem. The extra-biblical material fits well into the story of Esther. The servants of the king, seeing his depression, suggest a contest be conducted to choose another queen. When the contest becomes official, Mordecai, who adopted Esther as his own daughter, enters her in the beauty contest (2:7-8). Esther does not reveal her nationality which is Jewish (2:10). In 2:13-18 Esther wins the contest and is made queen. The king is not only pleased with the beauty of Esther (2:17) but has his life spared by her as she reveals to him a plot on his life which has been uncovered by Mordecai (2:21-23).

McKay is pastor, First, Belzoni.

False worship condemned

By Gus Merritt

Jeremiah 7:1-4, 8-10; 26:7-9, 12-14
Jeremiah 7 and 26 record Jeremiah's temple sermon. Jeremiah 7:1-15, is the Temple Sermon and Jeremiah 26 is similar in the expression and content to 7:1-15. Following the delivery of the Temple Sermon, chapter 26 records the trial for treason against Jeremiah. Both texts deal with false worship and God's displeasure with the judgement against false worship.

The reason for preaching the temple sermon (7:1-2). The Lord told Jeremiah to stand in the gate of the Temple and proclaim the message. The Temple of Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's boyhood had six gates. Three gates entered the outer court and three gates entered the inner court. The gate where Jeremiah stood to preach was most likely one of the gates entering the inner court where

the temple proper was.

The message was delivered to "all ye of Judah" and was probably delivered during one of the three pilgrim-feasts (Exodus 23:14, 17). There would be assembled at that time a large crowd of worshippers for such a solemn event. God intended for the most people possible to hear what he had to say through Jeremiah.

The message the worshippers received that day was certainly not what they came to hear. As a matter of fact, they came with the thought of no surprises in their routine of worship. They came to "worship as usual." In reality there should always be some surprises in our worship services and yet no surprise either. Someone was asked to define the "status quo." "The status quo," came the reply, "is the mess we are in."

The call to repent of false worship (7:3-4). The call is to correct "your

ways and your doings." Their ways were their settled pattern of conduct while their doings were the individual acts. This combination occurs frequently in Jeremiah. The reward for changing their ways would be for God to "cause you to dwell in this place." This could mean to dwell in the land but the context suggests God would dwell with them in the temple. In their false worship, God's presence had not been there. There are three types of God's presence in worship. 1. God's promised presence as promised by his Word. 2. The sense of God's presence as the worshipper feels the presence of God. 3. The demonstration of God's presence as God caused things to happen.

Not only had Judah deviated from the path of true worship; they had made the temple a fetish. Because of past promises of God concerning his presence in the temple, they had

assumed that no matter what their attitudes and actions were, the temple was their refuge from trouble. The phrase, "The temple of the Lord," repeated three times were lying words. Jeremiah used satire to make his point. There was no magic in their repetition of the phrase.

The real abomination of false worship (7:8-10). Even though Judah had assembled for worship in the temple, their ritual was vain and empty. What they said they did not mean. They were "lying words." It is not what is said from the lips that makes worship real, but what is in the heart. The worshippers were guilty of all kinds of sin. Notice how Jeremiah lists these sins, and how they violate the covenant. Jeremiah lists the latter five of the Ten Commandments first. These are the ethical ones dealing with man's relationship to his fellow man. The spiritual part of the Ten Commandments is listed last. They had worshipped pagan gods and thought they were safe by going to the temple. They sinned and then sought God's ap-

proval. Many people do this today. They live a life of sin during the week and go to church on Sunday in order to obtain God's favor and escape God's judgement. Someone has well said, "Don't sow your wild oats during the week and come to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure." True worship is not ritual, but living for God each day.

The consequences of false worship (26:7-9, 12-14). God would make the temple like Shiloh. Shiloh was the main place of worship at one time. The Ark of the Covenant was housed there. During a battle with the Philistines, the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the battlefield with the hope it would help Israel win the battle. Instead, the ark was captured and the Philistines destroyed the sanctuary at Shiloh. If Judah did not repent, God would do the same to the temple. Rather than repent, the religious leaders wanted to execute Jeremiah. Because of his faithfulness to God, he was spared.

Merritt is pastor, Clarke Venable.

good "check-up" might find us hastily rearranging our priorities.

McLeod is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

The Lord's second coming

By Peter McLeod

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Several years ago, Bill Lawrence and the late Meyer Berger of the New York Times, were discussing the most startling news item imaginable. Lawrence said he thought it would be the destructive unleashing of nuclear power but Berger disagreed. "No," he said, "I think it would be the coming again of Jesus Christ!"

Every convinced believer would agree with Berger's observation, for the promise of scripture is that, for the believer, there is "more, so much more." This is also the assuring and challenging word of Paul to the believers at Thessalonica. Two ideas concerning Christ's return are woven into the warp and woof of this passage.

The promise of Christ's return

Most of us can tolerate a lot of frustration and even pain if we know there's a positive, brighter end in sight and this was Paul's belief.

The first two decades of this century were called the "Age of Illusion,"

for it appeared to many political, social, scientific, educational and even some religious leaders, that man, by his own abilities, was going to usher in the Golden age. "Optimistic humanism" was the prevailing philosophy of the intelligentsia and power brokers as they awaited this longed for nirvana.

But along came World War I, the Depression years, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and nuclear sabre rattling by the super powers and optimistic humanism gave way to pessimistic humanism as is reflected in the writings of Sartre and Camus. These and others saw no exit from the human dilemma and we are now living in the "Age of Disillusionment" — an age wherein man's problems are beyond his capacity to rectify and he awaits the fall of the Damoclean sword.

Paul's redemptive word for his day and ours is that the day of the Lord is coming. (vs. 2) In the Old Testament the Day of the Lord was the term used to describe the concept of judge-

ment of turmoil and upheaval in all areas of earthly life.

In the New Testament the term was used to refer to the return of Christ and once again, there is the element of destruction associated with it. And rightly so, for the promise of scripture is that a "new heaven and new earth" will be ushered in. How then should this promise affect Christians?

The purpose of Christ's return

Since he was writing to believers, Paul wanted them to stay focused on the right things regarding the return of Christ. To spend time trying to figure out "when" it would occur was a misuse of personal stewardship and Christian witness. By calling for a redirected focus, he gave them both understanding and action.

A. Understanding (vs. 5-7)

Paul's emphasis on believers as "sons of light" was given in order that the Thessalonians might sense their purpose in the present as opposed to "Sons of darkness" who had none.

Robert Ingersoll, the most flamboyant and eloquent atheist in

B. Action (vs. 8-11)

Paul's admonition to the Thessalonians was one we need to heed — "Make sure your actions agree with your words!"

An old Christian saint was hoeing in his garden when a brash young Christian asked him what he would do if he knew Jesus was coming back within the next 24 hours. He replied, "I'd finish hoeing this row of beans."

It is unlikely that many of us could make that statement for our lives would not be in "hoeing on" order. A

Baptist Record

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